

from horse or other host to man, as the virus of western equine encephalomyelitis has been found in seven species. Mr. D. McLintock is investigating the incidence of these species of mosquitoes in Manitoba. He has found that three of the species of mosquito known to be capable of carrying virus experimentally are commonly found in the Winnipeg area. Two of these, *Aedes dorsalis* and *A. vexans* comprise nearly half of the total mosquito population. Dr. Savage has suggested the interesting theory that a reservoir of the virus may be found in horses who were vaccinated against the disease with the "chick vaccine" two or three years ago and have not been revaccinated. Immunity in these animals may have been reduced, he thinks, to a point where they harbour the virus without showing symptoms.

Clinically, the encephalitis does not conform to that described by von Economo in 1917. Parkinsonian sequelæ have not developed. As regards incidence, males furnished 85 per cent of cases of encephalitis. The average age was 40.9 years, and 284 cases out of a total of 423 came from rural areas. Sera from fifty cases of encephalitis have been sent to the Rockefeller Institute,

New York. Where the samples had been collected from patients over ten days ill, reports were positive against the virus of western equine encephalomyelitis and against no other virus in 75 per cent. In the treatment of poliomyelitis convalescent serum was used extensively, but its value is still a matter of dispute.

According to Dr. D. Nicholson, Professor of Pathology, University of Manitoba, the outstanding pathological lesions seen in fatal cases of encephalitis have been perivascular infiltration, the "collar of cells" around brain vessels, and focal necrosis. The lesions have been very diffuse, being found in all parts of the brain except the cerebellum.

Much of the research work has been made possible by the generosity of Mr. T. Lindsley, President, Northfield Mines Incorporated, Toronto.

At a time when nations are locked in a death grip over three continents it is cheering to think that physicians and scientists of Canada and the United States can unite in a common front against the forces of disease, and can seek to save, rather than destroy, life.

ROSS MITCHELL.

Editorial Comments

The Examination of Household Workers

The medical examination of household workers is a well recognized aspect of preventive medicine. Why should there be any difference between keeping watch on the health of the employees of large companies, of restaurants, of school teachers, of hospital nurses, and assuring ourselves that our domestic helpers are not only fit for their work but are not an actual menace to the health of the household? This is the problem which is brought before us by Dr. R. C. Stewart in his special article on "Pre-employment medical examinations for household workers" in the present issue. We would commend this paper to the special attention of our readers. Dr. Stewart not only states, in clear and cogent terms, the need for these examinations, but he shows how they can be done, and describes the plan which is being put into operation in Montreal. As he points out however, there are difficulties in carrying out the work, but none which are insuperable. The overcoming of them will depend largely on the efforts of our profession in educating the public in the matter. We shall hope to hear further from Dr. Stewart as to the success of this valuable aspect of preventive medicine.

H.E.M.

Medical Relief Fund for Great Britain

As will be seen in an ensuing column our Association has opened a fund for the assistance of our fellow practitioners in Great Britain in the present emergency. The initiative in this movement came from British Columbia, whose Division has already come forward with a generous contribution.

We repeat our appeal for support of this fund and look for a prompt response from all the other Divisions of our Association.

H.E.M.

Erratum

We regret that through an error on our part, certain printing errors appeared in the article on "Hypertensive heart disease" by Dr. A. B. Walter in the August issue, page 130. Dr. Walter after referring to the association between hypertension and arteriosclerosis goes on to speak of arteriolosclerosis as well. In the last five paragraphs on page 131 therefore the term "arteriolosclerosis" should replace "arteriosclerosis", except in line 3 from the foot of the page.